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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Aug. 1, 2008

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## **De-Go-La RC&D Provides Matching Grant to Ellinger Volunteer Fire Department**

*Ellinger, Texas, Aug. 1, 2008* – The Ellinger Volunteer Fire Department received a \$500 matching grant from the De-Go-La Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) to assist the Ellinger VFD in purchasing five Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) devices. The PASS device is worn by firefighters entering structural fires and if the device becomes motionless for 25 seconds, it sounds a loud signal indicating that something may be wrong with the firefighter. It helps insure the safety of firefighters in structural fires.

The Ellinger VFD must match the amount provided and provide a report and documentation to the De-Go-La RC&D that the funds were used as indicated within one year.

The Matching Grant program is intended to provide a nominal amount of funding to non-profit organizations and units of government within the De-Go-La RC&D service area, which includes the counties of Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Fayette, Jackson, Karnes, Lavaca, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria.

Participants are required to submit an application to the RC&D Council by the specified deadline. All applications are then reviewed by a committee. Grant applications are ranked according to needs, benefits, and attainment of area plan objectives. Selected applications are then submitted to the Board of Directors for funding. Applicants are eligible to submit one application per year. Selected projects must be carried out within one year of approval. In addition to the benefits of funding projects, the De-Go-La RC&D Council offers this program as a way to introduce many organizations to the process of preparing grant proposals.

“We are glad to have the De-Go-La RC&D in our area, helping organizations with these grants funds,” said Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Director, Rick Schilling. “As our county continues to grow and the fire department has more structures and people to protect, this grant will allow the Ellinger VFD to obtain the equipment they need.”

De-Go-La RC&D Inc. is one of 22 RC&D areas in Texas under the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that provides assistance to local leaders to develop and implement strategies for the wise use, development and conservation of the natural resources within the area. The RC&D program also provides the tools necessary to empower rural people to help themselves. RC&Ds are 501 (c) (3) non-profits created to encourage and improve the capability of volunteers, locally elected officials and civic minded community leaders, in their designated RC&D area, to deliver coordinated resource conservation and development assistance so communities can thrive. The Fayette SWCD is one of the 15 soil and water conservation districts that De-Go-La RC&D works with in providing assistance and funding for rural communities.

For information on the matching grant program, visit the De-Go-La RC&D Web site [www.degolarcd.org/matching\\_grant.htm](http://www.degolarcd.org/matching_grant.htm) or call (361) 570-7138.

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Photo Caption: Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) director Rick Schilling presents a \$500 grant check on behalf of the De-Go-La Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) to Ellinger VFD chief Larry Bartosh.

